

M.A. PASTORAL THEOLOGY (MAPT) ~ OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS, & OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE 1 – Pastoral Theology students will gain a deeper understanding of the integral relation between the Bible, the preached Word, and the enacted Word

In the course, Bible as Christian Scripture (BT 501), students perform scriptural exegesis in the first half of the course, and then spend the remaining half analyzing case studies to help them apply scriptural principles to ministry and life situation (the enacted Word). In another course (Theology of Word & Sacrament, TH 502), the Christian Calendar Project shows that students understand how to address congregational needs through the integration of biblical themes and to demonstrate how these inform discipleship of the congregation (the preached Word).

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in Bible integration assignments identified above

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	80%	89%	94%	75%
Total enrolment in above courses	10	18	16	8

OBJECTIVE 2 – Pastoral Theology students will gain a broader understanding of the nature of the church as the community of Christ

In the final project in Theology of the Church (TH 503), students situate their church community in historical context, critique its health based on biblical and theological principles explored in the class, and then provide recommendations for improvement. In this way, students are considering the nature of a local church as the community of Christ based on historical, biblical, and theological foundations.

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in the Church as Community assignment (TH 503)

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	67%	83%	89%	67%
Total enrolment in TH 503	6	6	9	6

OBJECTIVE 3 - Pastoral Theology students will understand the nature and purpose of the spiritual disciplines as applied in the life of a local congregation

In a paper in Theology of Word & Sacrament (TH 502) students are asked to explore the role and value of a particular sacrament in the life of the church and provide rationale for its proper use in the local congregation.

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in the sacrament assignment (TH 502)

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	80%	100%	100%	75%
Total enrolment in TH 502	5	8	11	4

OBJECTIVE 4 – Pastoral Theology students will understand the principles involved in guiding a Christian community to spiritual and ministry wholeness

Students assess and then propose adjustments to church mission/vision assignments for the purpose of spiritual vitality and wholeness in Theology of Pastoral Leadership (PM 505). In Missional Pastor (PM 504), students craft a plan that marries outreach, discipleship, and missional engagement.

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in spiritual & ministry wholeness assignments above

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	73%	91%	79%
Total enrolment in above courses	5	11	23	14

OBJECTIVE 5 - Pastoral Theology students will understand the Church as a witness to, and extension of, God's mission in the world

The course Missional Pastor (PM 504) challenges students to think of the church as a gathering and sending of people for mission.

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in a course which addresses the Church's role in God's mission in the world

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	83%	100%	86%
Total enrolment in PM 504	5	6	11	7

OBJECTIVE 6 – Pastoral Theology students will understand some of the key dynamics of the Church as a social institution, and what that means for Christian leadership of a local congregation

The course, Theology of Pastoral Leadership (PM 505) presents the pastor as a person, a leader, and as a team member, and helps the student to lead the church as a group of people on mission.

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in a course which addresses congregational leadership

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	na	67%	100%	43%
Total enrolment in PM 505		6	11	7

OBJECTIVE 7 – Pastoral Theology students will apply the biblical and theological principles learned in class in practical ministry settings

As an in-ministry degree, students are involved in the practice of ministry during their studies. This provides opportunity to apply their learning while continuing their students. Students submit monthly reflective reports where they must address how they are applying what they are learning as well as the impact of the classroom learning and the practical application on their spiritual growth. The Capstone Project (PM

506) for this degree requires students to incorporate principles learned formally in the classroom, as well as insights gleaned from intentional analysis of their ministry setting, in a practical project

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in practical ministry reflections

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	97%	98%	93%	93%
Total enrolment in above courses	29	43	69	43

Benchmark: 90% of MAPT students will earn a grade of at least 90% in the Capstone Project

Data:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Percentage meeting benchmark	100%	100%	91%	86%
Total enrolment in PM 506	5	5	11	7

ACTION STEPS

In many areas, MAPT students have succeeded in meeting the objectives of the program, however, there are few items which need to be addressed:

- In the four years of data provided, the target of 90% for Objective 2 has never been met; this warrants an examination of the assignments and objective to ensure alignment;
- Scores for students enrolled in the MAPT courses in 2021-2022 were consistently lower than in previous years, with the scores for objective 6 being at less than half the desired benchmark. Certainly, lower enrolment means that one student failing to meet a benchmark has a more significant impact, but nevertheless is cause for concern;
- The process of examining alignment between objectives and measurements has demonstrated the need for a full review of the objectives, to ensure they are an accurate representation of the degree program, and that there are measurements in place to ensure fulfillment of objectives.